

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1 and 17 without prejudice, add new claim 18 and amend claims 2 to 8 as follows

Claim 1 (canceled).

2.(currently amended) The process as defined in claim 18, wherein claim 1,
~~wherein~~ said partially heating is performed by heating means comprising an IR
radiation source or a gas burner.

3.(currently amended) The process as defined in claim 18, wherein claim 1 or 2,
~~wherein~~ said partially heating of the glass or glass ceramic article is performed
until the glass or glass ceramic article has a viscosity below 10^6 dPa·s.

4.(currently amended) The process as defined in claim 18, wherein claim 1 or 2,
~~wherein~~ said partially heating takes place for a time interval of less than 30 s.

5.(currently amended) The process as defined in claim 18, wherein claim 1 or 2,
~~wherein~~ said cooling comprises blowing air on the ~~flat glass or glass ceramic~~
~~article partially shape d~~ glass or glass ceramic product.

6.(currently amended) The process as defined in claim 18, wherein claim 1,
~~wherein the removing comprises means for~~ mechanically raising the partially
shaped glass or glass ceramic product.

7.(currently amended) The process as defined in claim 6, wherein the ~~means for~~
~~mechanically raising of the partially shaped glass or glass ceramic product is~~
~~performed by comprises~~ lifting members provided in the apparatus for partially
shaping.

8.(currently amended) The process as defined in claim 18, wherein claim 1,
~~wherein the removing comprises~~ directing compressed air at the partially shaped
glass or glass ceramic product to lift the glass or glass ceramic product from the
support plate.

Claims 9 to 17 (canceled).

18.(new) A process for partial shaping of a flat glass or glass ceramic article, said
process comprising the steps of:

a) providing an apparatus for the partial shaping of the flat glass or glass
ceramic article, said apparatus comprising a planar support plate for receiving
and supporting the flat glass or glass ceramic article and at least one shaping die
arranged in at least one through-going opening provided in the planar support
plate with a predetermined peripheral gap between said at least one shaping die

and said planar support plate, so that said at least one shaping die is substantially flush or even with an upper surface of the planar support plate in an initial position and is movable upward from said initial position to at least one predetermined displaced position above the upper surface of the planar support plate;

b) placing the flat glass or glass ceramic article on the planar support plate with an entire facing surface of the flat glass or glass ceramic article resting on the planar support plate and over said at least one through-going opening so that a reduced pressure or vacuum produced under the planar support plate draws the flat glass or glass ceramic article down onto the planar support plate;

c) producing a low pressure in a space below the planar support plate to hold the flat glass or glass ceramic article fixed on the planar support plate;

d) partially heating the flat glass or glass ceramic article in the vicinity of the at least one through-going opening on the planar support plate until at least a part of the flat glass or glass ceramic article softens;

e) raising the at least one shaping die provided in the initial position in the at least one through-going shaping opening to the at least one predetermined displaced position into said part of said glass or glass ceramic article softened in the partially heating of step d) at the same time as the producing of the low pressure in said space below the planar support plate;

f) subsequently cooling a partially shaped glass or glass ceramic product formed from the glass or glass ceramic article by said partial heating, said producing of said low pressure and said raising of said at least one shaping die;

g) withdrawing the at least one shaping die from a solidified portion of the partially shaped glass or glass ceramic product; and

h) removing the partially shaped glass or glass ceramic product from the support plate.